

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner



Buy South Carolina.

Nothing's Fresher. Nothing's Finer.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 14, 2008

Commissioner's School wraps up another successful year

COLUMBIA, SC - Forty three high school students descended on Clemson University for the week-long South Carolina Commissioner's School of Agriculture from July 19-25. The students who came from across the state and as far away as Tennessee spent the week exploring career paths in agriculture and natural resources.

"We had a great group of students this year and their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn was thrilling," said Katie Black, Coordinator of Student Relations and Recruitment for the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences at Clemson. "We've worked hard to not only challenge them academically, but have a lot of fun while learning."

This is the fifth year the program has been held and each year it grows larger. The students spent the week in hands-on scientific exploration along with workshops related to academic integrity, teamwork, personal growth and leadership. The students chose academic tracks related to their interests, and they were also exposed to organic food growth, greenhouse production, athletic turf-grass management during a tour of Death Valley, animal and veterinary sciences, packaging science, aquaculture, forestry and wildlife and natural resource management. They also took several field trips including visits to university research farms, the Clemson Experimental Forest, and rafting on the Chattooga River.

"Our staff and the folks at Clemson put on a fantastic program," said Hugh Weathers, South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture. "It's always rewarding to see these young folks get excited about agriculture."

High-school students interested in participating in next year's Commissioner's School or attending Clemson's agriculture program, should contact Katie Black at the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences at Clemson. She can be reached at hulse@clemson.edu or 864-656-6662.

***** end *****

Contact:

Becky Walton, 803-734-2182, bwalton@scda.sc.gov

Stephen Hudson, 803-734-0648, sdhudson@scda.sc.gov